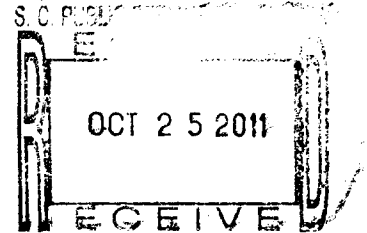


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522 Briarwood Road
Lancaster, SC 29720
October 24, 2011



Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Dr., Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29210

RE: *Docket 2011-271-E*

Dear Commissioners,

I respectfully submit my comments regarding the request for a rate hike by Duke Energy. I realize you are swamped with protests regarding this rate hike. In these tough economic times I am not looking forward to one either; however, I much prefer reliable electricity to no rate hike.

Duke has been my service provider for over 30 years and I have found them to be reliable and prompt in responding to service issues. I would also note that their rates are lower than both the southeastern average and the national average.

I work in local government and am well aware of the impact of unfunded mandates. It is my understanding this is part of the problem Duke is facing. Everyone wants clean air, everyone wants to use renewable energy such as solar, and everyone wants to phase out coal and nuclear energy sources. The problem is no one wants to pay for it.

I have not conducted an in-depth analysis to determine if every cent of the requested hike is justified. I trust the staff of the Public Service Commission to make such an analysis. I do know that unless the Commission is prepared to grant relief from the Clean Air Act and the need to make sure we have reliable electricity available in the future, some rate hike is justified.

I appreciate your careful consideration of this case and for reviewing my brief comments.

Sincerely,

Steve Willis
Duke Power customer